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Economic and Social Council

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E/CN.3/1991/L.2
4 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
4-13 February 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

State of preparation of documentation for the session

Note by the Secretariat

1. By Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/1 of 9 February 1979 and 1979/69 of 2 August 1979 on the control and limitation of documentation and 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the Council reiterated that the Secretariat should circulate the relevant documentation in all the working languages six weeks before the opening of the sessions of the Council and its subsidiary organs, and invited the Secretariat to take steps to ensure effective compliance with rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Council. By resolution 1979/69, the Council requested the Secretariat to inform the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in the relevant annotated agenda, which documents had not been issued in accordance with the six-week rule, with a full explanation of the reasons that prevented their circulation.

2. In view of the schedule of the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission (4-13 February 1991), the documentation for the session should have been submitted to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services by 19 November 1990 and circulated by 24 December 1990. The documents which were not circulated by that date are listed in the annex below.

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* E/CN.3/1991/1 and Corr.1.

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Annex

STATUS OF DOCUMENTATION AS AT 21 JANUARY 1991

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
3	Special issues			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of structural adjustment programmes and the debt burden on the work programmes of national and international statistical services (E/CN.3/1991/4)	18 January	23 January	31 January
4	National accounts and balances			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress report on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (E/CN.3/1991/5)	19 November	13 December	31 January
	Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Meetings on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) (E/CN.3/1991/8)	17 December	2 January	30 January
	Final report of the Regional Seminar on National Accounts convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CN.3/1991/9)	16 January	31 January	6 February

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
4	Report of the Expert Meeting on the revision of the System of National Accounts in the Arab World (SNA) (E/CN.3/1991/10)	17 December	7 January	31 January
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) on the activities of CMEA with respect to SNA and MPS (E/CN.3/1991/12)	16 January	18 January	29 January
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress in the harmonizations of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (E/CN.3/1991/13)	13 December	2 January	21 January
5	International economic classification			
	Report of the International Labour Office on the progress of work on the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) (E/CN.3/1991/14)	4 January	16 January	4 February
6	Service statistics			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the work done by national and international agencies in the field of service statistics (E/CN.3/1991/15)	7 December	28 December	30 January

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
6	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics dealing with a a model survey of computer services (E/CN.3/1991/16)	3 December	3 January	28 January
7	Price statistics			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the World Programme of Industrial Statistics (E/CN.3/1991/17)	11 January	18 January	4 February
9	Demographic, social and environment statistics			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress report on civil registration and vital statistics (E/CN.3/1991/19)	13 December	2 January	31 January
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the development of a co-ordinated United Nations system data base for selected social statistics and indicators of common interest and the development of related national data bases (E/CN.3/1991/20)	28 January	4 February	8 February
	Case studies carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and on the preparations for the planned international statistical meeting on indicators of patterns of consumption (E/CN.3/1991/21)	2 October	24 October	25 January

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Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
11	Technical co-operation			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the effects of structural adjustment programmes and the debt burden on the work programmes of national and international statistical services (E/CN.3/1991/4)	18 January	23 January	31 January
	Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the development of a co-ordinated United Nations system data base for selected social statistics and indicators of common interest and the development of related national data bases (E/CN.3/1991/20)	See item 9 above		
	Report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation in statistics (E/CN.3/1991/25)	17 December	13 January	24 January
	Report of the Secretary-General on National Household Survey Capability Progress in implementation and co-ordination of the Programme (E/CN.3/1991/26)	7 December	3 January	31 January
	Report of the World Bank on the progress made in implementing the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) programme (E/CN.3/1991/27)	19 November	17 December	28 January

Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
12	Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the overall review of the statistical work of the international organizations (E/CN.3/1991/28)	7 December	28 December	29 January
	Report of the Secretary-General on the plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics (E/CN.3/1991/29)	17 December	4 January	30 January
13	Programme questions			
	Report of the Secretary-General on the overall review of the statistical work of the international organizations (E/CN.3/1991/28)	See item 12 above		
	Report of the Secretary-General on the plans of the international organizations in the area of statistics (E/CN.3/1991/29)	See item 12 above		
	Report of the Secretary-General on updated information on the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat (E/CN.3/1991/30)	8 January	15 January	29 January

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Agenda item	Document and symbol	Date of submission to the Division of Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services	Date of submission to the Department of Conference Services	Actual or projected date of issue*
13	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.3/1991/31)	31 January	4 February	6 February

* The date of issue can be indicated only for those documents that have reached the Department of Conference Services.

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Agenda item 5

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1984 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, requested the Secretary-General to submit, at each session of a functional commission or subsidiary body of the Council, a draft provisional agenda for its following session and to indicate the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

2. Pursuant to Council resolution 1979/41, the draft provisional agenda for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, is submitted to the Council for its review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the overall documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

3. The Council, in resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of its work, endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council should also be streamlined in order to enable them to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them.

4. The draft provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission will be completed at the present session in the light of resolutions and decisions adopted and requests made by the Commission during the present session and will be submitted to the Council for review, in accordance with Council resolution 1979/41. The following draft provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Special topics (see paras. 5-8 below).

4. National accounts and balances.

Documentation

Final draft of the revised System of National Accounts

5. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on its fourteenth session

6. Programme questions.

Documentation

Draft work programme of the Statistical Office for 1994-1995, proposed revisions of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and information on programme performance during 1990-1991.

7. Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission.

8. Report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session.

5. With regard to item 3 of the draft provisional agenda (Special topics), the Commission will recall that the practice of holding discussions on special issues began at the twenty-second session. Since then, the following subjects have been covered:

Twenty-second session

Administrative records

Information technology

Publication policy for statistics

Twenty-third session

Meeting user needs for, and improving the dissemination of, international statistics

Future direction of work on social indicators

Publication policy for statistics

Twenty-fourth session

Communications between national and international statistical agencies and the development of data bases

Special problems of the statistically least developed among the developing countries

Twenty-fifth session

Co-ordination of international statistical activities

Selection and recruitment of professional staff for work in national statistical offices and statistical services of the United Nations

Twenty-sixth session

Increasing user awareness of the value of statistical outputs and services

Implications of structural adjustment and the debt crisis for national and international statistical services

6. The Statistical Commission, at its twenty-third session, and the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its twelfth session, considered the question of special topics to be taken up by the Commission following its twenty-fifth session. The Working Group did not consider it desirable to select topics in 1987 for a session to be held in 1991 since priorities and concerns might change. It therefore requested the Statistical Office to condense the consolidated list of special topics into a short list of approximately 10 topics to assist the Commission at its twenty-sixth session in selecting special topics for future discussion (see E/CN.3/1989/20, para. 2).

7. The remaining items on the condensed list of special topics are as follows:

1. The European single market: implications for international statistics;

2. Statistical needs related to the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

3. Statistical education and training, particularly in developing countries;

4. Improving statistics on the situation of women;

5. The use of CD-ROMs and similar portable mass storage media for the dissemination of statistics;

6. Improving timeliness in national and international statistical work;

7. The role of international work related to statistical methods;

8. The role of non-governmental organizations in international statistical work.

8. It is the Secretariat's view that a maximum of one topic should be selected for special discussion, bearing in mind resource constraints on the preparation of documentation for the Commission and that at recent sessions, the Commission has been requested to include additional items in its agenda in response to decisions of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretariat would further propose that the Commission request the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination to select one topic, in light of the Commission's suggestions at the present session, from the unused topics on the consolidated list.